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Copy 1 of 20

7 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Justification for Photographic Coverage
of Two Highest Priority Targets:
SEVEROMORSK and MOLOTOVSK

1. In presenting the attached justification for instituting operations against SEVEROMORSK and MOLOTOVSK, the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee is aware of the fact that the latest justification presentation to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to the President did not include these two targets. The list submitted at that time (just prior to the operation against KAPUSTIN YAR) is as follows:

KAPUSTIN YAR
NIZHNAYA TURA
VERKH NEIVINSK
KYSHTYM
SARATOV/ENGELS
UKRAINA
CHEPELEVKA
BELAYA TSERKOV
VORONEZH
KUYBYSHEV
KAZAN

2. It should be explained that the climate in which that justification was prepared was conditioned by the existence of an AQUATONE capability [] for a brief time and that these two current targets were outside of the range from that staging base. The presentation in that case, therefore, in itself was not intended to contain any judgment whatsoever with regard to the comparative importance of these two targets versus guided missile [] targets which were presented.

3. We believe the two targets in question rank in importance to the guided missile [] targets earlier presented to the

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President, Currently available intelligence bearing upon the capability of the Russian naval force to deliver a guided missile with an atomic warhead against the United States is fragmentary and, while giving strong hints as to probability, is so inadequate that firm estimates are precluded.

4. Your attention is called to the fact that the Army and the Air Force cannot confirm but defer to the judgment of the Navy and PI experts with regard to the judgment stated in the parentheses in paragraph 2 b of the attached paper on the question of the probability of being able to determine whether a submarine is configured for guided missiles from AQUATONE photography.

5. Recommendations:

a. That an AQUATONE mission or missions as required be carried out to provide photographic coverage of MOLOTOVSK and SEVEROMORSK.

b. That the attached justification be employed as necessary to outline to higher authorities the significance and probable collection consequences of the proposed overflight.

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JAMES Q. REBER
Chairman
Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

Attachment-

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JQR:cw

- 1-Project Director w/att cy 1
- 2-OACSI w/att cy 2
- 3-ONI w/att cy 3
- 4-AFCIN w/att cy 4
- 5-AFCIN-Z w/att cy 5
- 6-NSA w/att cy 6
- 7-State w/att cy 7
- 8-DD/I(P) w/att cy 8
- 9-OCI w/att cy 9
- 10-OSI w/att cy 10

- 11-ESO OSI w/att cy 11
- 12-ORR w/att cy 12
- 13-IO w/att cy 13
- 14-Chief/HTA w/att cy 14
- 15-TSO w/att cy 15
- 16-PSO w/att cy 16
- 17-DD/P w/att cy 17
- 18-HTA OCR w/att cy 18
- 19-file
- 20-chrono

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